

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—What was the maximum that was offered, I mean, the highest tender?

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—I want notice.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—What was the reason for giving such short notice as is given here? I understand that the notice reached the place concerned, Nerangampara, only on the day on which the tenders have to be given.

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—It is not true.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—At the most it could have reached the place concerned only one day previous.

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—It is five days.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—The Gazette notification itself was on the 29th of Mithunam and the tender was to reach the Conservator on the 30th Mithunam.

President.—Your present attitude is to say that the answer given is not correct. You are not entitled to do that.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—I am only giving an information.

President.—Do not give any information. We do not want any information from you. You must always ask for information and not supply information.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—If it is prohibited, then I shall not give any information.

Then coming to the answer given to sub-division (f), may I know the reason, when for a second time tenders were called for, why they were again rejected?

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—Government thought they would work it departmentally.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—With regard to the departmental working, did the Government expect any additional advantages?

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—The answer is there. 'Yes, for their working on better lines.'

512. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether any petitions have been received this year by the Government from one Muhammad Ebrahim Rowther to the effect that between 2,000 and 3,000 teak and veetti trees lie felled in Pothundi and Nerangampara coupes;

(b) has not the petitioner offered Rs. 22 per candy for Pothundi, Rs. 21 per candy for Nerangampara timber;

(c) has he not also offered to purchase the talavarams of these at Rs. 8 a candy;

(d) what has been done with his petition and the offers made therein;

(e) (i) is it a fact that between 2,000 and 3,000 teak and veetti trees lie felled in these areas;

(ii) did the Government make an enquiry into the truth of this allegation and with what result;

(iii) who felled these;

(iv) are all the felled trees marked;

(v) on what authority were these felled?

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—(a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

(d) The petitioner's offer was not accepted as an auction sale was considered better.

(e) (i) It is not a fact.

(ii) Yes; it was found to be untrue.

(iii) The persons who had the contract to fell and remove fuel in the fuel coupes.

(iv) Yes.

(v) Under Government sanction.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—In the last Vrischigam Session a similar question was answered and it was stated in answer to that that in the Nerangampara coupe about 1,800 trees lie felled, and here it is stated that it is not a fact. What is the quantity of timber in Nerangampara coupe alone?

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—About 1,300 candies.

513. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether any departmental communication has been given to contractors Messrs. Viswanathan Chetti and V. K. Nayar of Nemmara to collect their timber and get them ready for measurement in Kumbham 1104;

(b) which is the timber referred to in the communication;

(c) were these contractors given fuel coupes in the years 1102 and 1103;

(d) were they authorised to fell teak or veetti;

(e) were they given fuel coupes in 1102 and 1103 as per tenders or in auction or by private negotiation?

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—(a) Yes.

(b) The timber portion of trees felled for fuel.

(c) Yes.

(d) Yes.

(e) By tenders for 1102 and private negotiation in 1103.